

## Woman's World

Mrs. Wilson Woodrow Says Editors Aren't Prejudiced.



MRS. WILSON WOODROW.

To many readers of Mrs. Wilson Woodrow's breezy stories that from time to time appear in the popular magazines it will be a surprise to learn that the author is a slight young woman with curly blond hair and altogether feminine in manner and appearance. The vigor, breadth and masculine viewpoint of her stories have caused many persons to imagine the author was a man masquerading under a feminine pen name. But Mrs. Wilson Woodrow is really the name of this very clever little lady. Her husband and Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey are cousins, named after uncles with the surname of Wilson and Woodrow, respectively, and the Christian names Thomas and James. And when the boys grew up the author's husband dropped the James and Woodrow Wilson dropped the Thomas. So Mrs. Woodrow can't help her name nor the fact that she's a woman.

When Mrs. Woodrow was asked to account for the masculine viewpoint in her writings she replied: "I was brought up in a family which included more men than women, which taught actors in a fashionable male character not a college graduate," she continued. "I never went to school even. When I wanted to learn anything and said so I had teachers provided at home."

Before going to New York city ten years ago from her home in southern Ohio Mrs. Woodrow had written a fiction, and her first short story, whose scene was laid in a mining camp, was submitted to a New York newspaper syndicate, and a check for \$100 was sent to her two days later for the story, with the request from the same firm for a series of stories based on mining camp life.

The same week Mrs. Woodrow sent a humorous sketch to a society magazine, which was accepted with a request for more copy of the same character.

This was the start, and the daily little authoress thought the letters so wonderful that they found a place of honor as a decoration on her study wall.

Mrs. Woodrow thinks that "pull" has nothing whatever to do with the placing of manuscripts and as for personality influencing editors and publishers it had nothing to do with the acceptance of her stories as her staff was sold before she had met the editors.

When asked recently if she intended to confine herself to short story writing, Mrs. Woodrow answered: "Oh, dear, no. I feel as if I had just begun to work—as if I have just started out. My best work, I hope, is to come, and this, I think, will be expressed in long stories. For one thing, novels pay the better. One puts almost as many ideas and as much work into a short story as into a novel and for a comparatively small return." The following is how Mrs. Woodrow's days are spent when a long story is being written:

"I cut out social pleasures almost entirely—that is, anything likely to distract my thoughts from the main trend. I don't go to the theater, for instance, nor to teas nor dinners, nor to entertainments where I shall meet and talk with a lot of people. I can't stand play at such times. I get better results by working steadily when I work and playing only when my work is done. Of course I don't mean that I write all day long. I get to work early, soon after 7 o'clock, and stay at my desk till 1 o'clock or so, doing perhaps 2,500 words. After lunch I walk, motor or do something that doesn't distract my thoughts too much. I wish flying machines were in fashion, for it seems to me that would be an ideal secluded way to take pleasure and exercise at the same time. When I come home I may work a couple of hours more, going over proofs or revising something already written, but I don't resume work on my story until the next morning."

The Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw is said to have preached in more countries than any other woman in the ministry. Besides this country, Dr. Shaw has preached in England, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Holland.

## Good form

### A Girl's Manners.

There are many small and unseen reefs upon which the girl seeking social success may come to grief, and one of the most dangerous is that of broken social engagements.

In the present day old fashioned courtesy and consideration seem to be asleep or else to have left society entirely. The modern hostess only too frequently receives a telephone message from some guest at the last moment saying without the least compunction, "So sorry, but it is impossible."

As a rule, this sort of thing is inexcusable. Of course conditions may arise under which nothing else can be done, but the girl who usually sends a message of this kind is of the selfish type and rarely succeeds in attaining popularity. She is thinking more of her own caprice than of her hostess.

It is not an easy matter to fill in at dinner or luncheon or bridge. No matter how well poised a hostess may be, a disappointment of this kind is upsetting, and the selfish or thoughtless girl who is the occasion of her embarrassment is apt to have a black mark against her name in that particular hostess's mind.

The trouble is that the girl of today is too careless in her acceptance of invitations. On the spur of the moment she accepts and then frequently decides that the whole thing is a bore, or something else comes up that she would prefer doing, and she finally ends by declining the invitation at the last moment, thus arousing an antagonism that cannot help but handicap her in her social career.

It is a simple matter to decline in the first place. A declaration of this sort a hostess has no right to resent, but once her list is closed it is another matter.

Telephone Is One Cause. A young girl recently remarked that she accepted every invitation which came to her, then picked those she preferred, throwing over the others. This sounds well, but sooner or later it will result in unpopularity. Neither courtesy nor consideration justifies such a course.

Naturally one has preferences. There are certain things one would rather do. A girl should make up her mind what these things are and accept them before everything else, but she should not decline them without a word.

Let her decline them definitely the moment they are presented to her and she will find she makes fewer enemies, while at the same time she pleases herself.

One hears the impulsive girl say, "Oh, that is all very well, but what can one do in this day when people call you on the telephone and fire invitations at you point blank and your mind is as destitute of excuses as an empty birdcage?"

The best advice for this situation is to learn to think quickly and decline definitely if it is a thing one does not care to do. One can always have an engagement to sit at home and cultivate one's mind.

Courtesy Always Pays. The average girl will say that this is a trivial subject, and if courtesy and consideration are trivial then it is, but it is the little things that so often get us disliked and land us in the lonely land.

The girl who accepts an invitation as an evidence of good will and treats it with perfect courtesy will find her social path smoother and her own pleasures less complicated.

The Rolling Stunt. Not known to the multitude is the fact that almost every rich and portly dame has a "rolling suit," which very much resembles the small child's flannellette nightgown or the unstuffed covering of a rag doll.

When one of the aforementioned dames climbs into her suit it is very much stuffed, and the extent to which her avoirdupois has been reduced is gauged each day by the fit of the suit. Worn with it is a cap that ties on like a bathing cap, for madam's hair is apt to collect dust from the floor space where the rolling stunt is performed.

Fifteen minutes before breakfast and again at bedtime is the allowance for this pastime, which includes 100 turns over and back each time. This means all the way over and twice over if space allows. Little or no effort is required for the turning, and if the exercise can be followed by a hot bath so much the better.

Those who wish to reduce more rapidly than is accomplished by rolling alone have recourse to touching the finger tips or palms of the hands to the floor without bending the knees, as additional efforts, and also to the equally old and reliable method of lying on one's back on the floor and raising each leg straight up from the body for fifty consecutive times and then both together for as many more times.

These natural motions and walking, though slower and requiring greater hope and patience on the part of the robust one, are much safer than drugs, for medicines powerful enough to dispel adipose tissues have an injurious effect upon the organs of the body, and too many cases of "heart trouble" have resulted from trying some little pellet recommended by a formerly fat friend.

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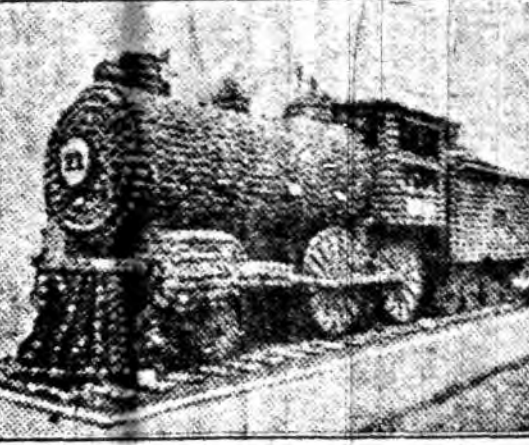
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## For the Children

A Locomotive Entirely Covered With Apples.



At a horticultural fair in Sebastopol, Cal., one of the most interesting exhibits was an apple locomotive on an apple track on apple ties, says the St. Nicholas, from which the accompanying picture is reproduced. It required several thousand apples to make this unique design.

The framework was twenty-six feet long and six feet high, and the engine was complete, at least as to its outward appearance. The driving wheels were operated by a concealed electric motor. When the power was turned this fruit engine moved along on its track.

Making Scrap Books. The very best kind of scrap book for the nursery is one made of linen, colored cambric or muslin. Cut four pieces, 24 by 12 inches, and buttonhole stitch the edges. Then stitch down the middle, fold over and stitch again along the folded edges to make the book stay shut. The edges may be scalloped instead of buttonholed. Advertisements may be cut from newspapers and magazines and by combining them make very funny pictures.

Another kind of scrap book can be made from a blank book which has all the leaves cut across about a third of the way down. Cut from picture cards or old books figures of men, women, boys or girls, and, cutting off the heads, paste the bodies on the larger part of the page and the heads on the smaller part so they just fit together. By only turning part of the pages, either the upper or lower, at a time, each body can be made to fit a different head. But you must be careful to paste the pictures so that any head will join any body. A linen book can be made in the same way.

Make the paste by mixing one half cup of flour with cold water to make a smooth thin batter. Stir continually. Remove from the fire as soon as it boils and add three drops of cloves.

When Professor Scheffel, the German poet, was staying in Italy for the benefit of his health he received from a friend in Berlin an unstamped letter containing nothing but the following words: "I am quite well. Yours truly, B." Annoyed at having to pay double postage, the poet packed in a case a very large stone and dispatched it to his friend by express. Collect the latter, in the belief that the package contained something of considerable value, willingly paid the high charges and opened the case. His feelings may be better imagined than described when he saw the stone and the label attached to it, which bore the following words: "On receipt of the news as to the state of your health my heart was relieved of this load."

Presence of Mind. A startling incident is related of an officer in the Twelfth hussar regiment who was riding with the troops in the neighborhood of the garrison of Merseburg when suddenly his horse, a high mettled charger, took fright and bolted. His efforts to restrain the animal were fruitless. Giving the horse the rein, the officer waited for a chance to spring from the saddle. To his dismay, the animal suddenly swerved to ward a piece of level ground which ended in a cliff overhanging the shore. In a few moments both horse and rider would be over the edge. But a bright flash was seen for a moment, and the saber of the officer fell with deadly effect upon the head of the steed. Just in time the officer leaped from the saddle and escaped.

What Lucy Knew. Mother was very busy dusting and straightening up the house. Little Lucy was helping.

"I declare," said mother, "I never saw so much dust. I wonder where it comes from."

"If I knew I'd tell you," answered Lucy.

"You don't even know what dust is."

"Oh, yes, I do, mother! It is mud with the juice squeezed out."

When Mary Reads. When Mary reads at school, you know, she speaks the words all very slow—"I see-a-boy," and things like that. And "Thomas-have-you-seen-the-cat?" And teacher says (don't ever tell) That Mary can't read very well.

But when she reads to Bob and me we scarcely want to stop for tea. She reads the most surprising things. Of birds that talk and beasts with wings. And mother always smiles to see When Mary reads to Bob and me.

It doesn't matter what the book. Dear Mary only has to look To see the nicest stories there. She took Bob's speller, I declare. And sweeter tales there could not be Than those she read to Bob and me!

And so we're sure that teacher's wrong And Mary'll beat the class ere long. For, though the grown folks all can tell What words the hardest letters spell, It's wonderful a girl so small Can read what isn't there at all! —Youth's Companion.

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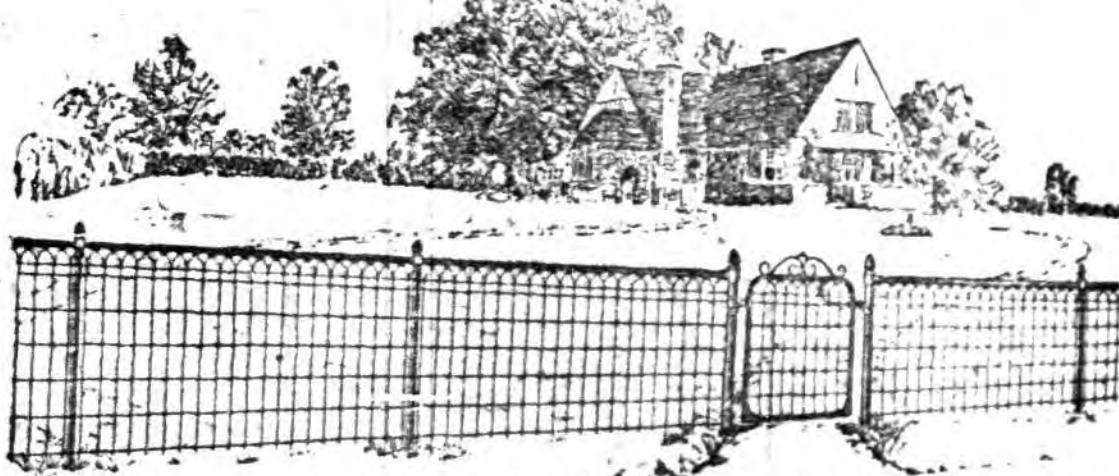
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